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REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, Claims 5 - 10, 12, 14, 15, 27 - 40 and 52 - 59 are pending. Claims 28-30 have been amended to recite that the "truncated pullulanase" instead of the "modified pullulanase". Specifically support is found at page 8, lines 7-25, and page 12, lines 5 - 13. Claims 56 and 57 have been amended to recited, [t] truncated Bacillus pullulanase produced..." instead of the truncated Bacillus produced". Specifically support is found in the prior filed claims 56 and 57; at page 4, lines 12-16; at page 5, lines 7-14; at page 9, lines 25-29; and at page 12, lines 15-16.

Claims 5-10, 12, 14,-15, 27, 31-40, 52-55, 58-66 have been allowed and Claims 28-30, 56, and 57 were rejected in the Office Action dated October 17, 2003. Claims 28-30, 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as failing to distinctly claim the invention.

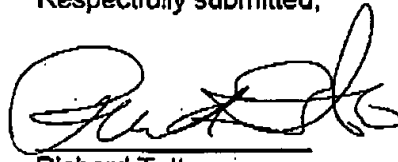
REJECTION 35 USC § 112

Claims 28-30 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite as the phrase "the modified pullulanase" was asserted to lack antecedent bases for the limitation in the claims. Claims 28-30 have been amended to recite "the truncated pullulanase". Claims 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite as the phrase "the truncated Bacillus produced " was asserted to lack antecedent bases. Claims 56 and 57 have been amended to recite "the truncated Bacillus pullulanase". Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and the Section 112 rejections of Claims 28-30, 56 and 57 should be reconsidered.

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Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance and issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 846-4020.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 13, 2004

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